

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

-1- (Currently Amended)

A process for reducing acrylamide production in a cooked, starch based processed food which comprises:

(a) providing an aqueous medium for a fermentation by a microorganism for food fermentations containing an uncooked processed food at a pH for metabolizing sugars in the uncooked processed food aid in a fermenter with an outlet with a strainer for the uncooked processed food and means for recirculation of the aqueous medium in the fermenter;

(a) (b) fermenting the uncooked processed food before cooking in the an agitated aqueous medium which is agitated and recirculated in the fermenter with a the microorganism used for food fermentations so as to ferment the sugars in the food sufficiently to reduce the acrylamide production upon cooking of the uncooked processed food; and

(c) removing the aqueous medium from the uncooked processed food in the fermenter through the strainer;

(d) removing the processed food from the fermenter;  
and

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(e) cooking the uncooked processed food wherein the  
fermented and cooked food contains less acrylamide than without  
the fermentation.

-2- (Currently Amended)

The process of Claim 1 wherein the aqueous medium  
comprises an added sugar for the fermentation.

-3- (Currently Amended)

The process of Claim 1 wherein the aqueous medium  
comprises an added amino acid source for the fermentation.

-4- (Currently Amended)

The process of any one of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein  
the aqueous medium for the fermentation is at a temperature  
between about 10 and 40°C.

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-5- (Currently Amended)

The process of any one of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein a pH of the aqueous medium is maintained between 4 and 8 during the fermentation.

-6- (Currently Amended)

The process of any one of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the uncooked processed food is cooked by being fried.

-7- (Currently Amended)

The process of any one of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein the uncooked processed food is cooked by being is baked in an oven.

-8- (Currently Amended)

The process of Claim 1 wherein the cooked food is selected from the group consisting of potato chips, tortilla chips, pretzels, crackers, baked goods, fried breads, processed cereals and French fries.

-9- (Cancelled)

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-10- (Original)

The process of any one of Claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein  
the microorganism is a yeast.

-11- (Original)

The process of any one of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein  
the microorganism is a bacterium.

-12- (Original)

The process of any one of Claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein  
the microorganism is a lactic acid producing microorganism.

-13- (Currently Amended)

The process of Claim 1 wherein the microorganisms are  
recycled between batches of the uncooked processed food which  
are processed in the fermentation.

-14- (Currently Amended)

The process of Claim 1 wherein ~~prior to fermenting~~  
~~a prior to or during the fermenting the~~ pH of the aqueous  
medium is adjusted ~~to reduce the acrylamide production during~~  
~~the fermentation~~.

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-15- (Currently Amended)

The process of Claim 1 wherein the uncooked processed food is washed with water prior to the cooking to remove residues of the fermentation.

-16- (Original)

The process of Claim 1 wherein at the end of the fermenting the aqueous medium has a pH between about 4 and 5.

-17- (Currently Amended)

The process of Claim 1 wherein the uncooked processed food is dried after the fermentation and before the cooking.

-18- (Currently Amended)

The process of ~~Claim~~ Claim 1 wherein water provided in the aqueous medium in step (a) is distilled or otherwise purified.

-19- (New)

The process of Claim 1 wherein the uncooked food is potato slices.